

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FLASH INCIDENT REPORT

EVENT NAME: Erskine Vegetation Fire, Lake Isabella, Kern County (This report may contain unconfirmed information)

DATE/TIME OF REPORT: 06/29/16 at 2035 hours

DATE/TIME OF EVENT: 06/23/16 at 1557 hours

LOCATION: Erskine Creek Rd & Apollo Way, Lake Isabella

IMPACT OF EVENT: Moderate

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

Location: Erskine Creek Rd & Apollo Way, Lake Isabella

Per the State Operations Center (SOC):

Per ICS-209:

Acres Burned to Date: 46,684 Acres

Contained: 70%

Start Date and Time: 06/23/16 1557 hours

Fire Cause: Unknown

Structures Threatened: 75

Total Structures Destroyed: 286

Single Residences: 285

Non-residential: 1

Other minor structures: 0

Structures Damaged: 12

Estimated Contained (date): 07/05/16 per ICS-209

Fuel Types: Brush, small and large trees

The damage assessment team completed their report and these are the final numbers destroyed and damaged structures. The one non-residential commercial property destroyed is an AT&T microwave cell hub.

Event Summary- The Erskine Fire is burning in the Lake Isabella area of Kern County. As of 0600 hours on 6/29/16, per InciWeb: Incident Information System, there are 1,743 (-65) firefighters on scene. The fire started on Bureau Land Management (BLM) managed public lands at the junction of Erskine Creek Rd and Apollo. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Fire Information

The Incident Command Post is located ICP Located at Sequoia National Forest Camp 9 in Kernville as of 1000 hours on 06/27/16.

- 2 confirmed fatalities
- Several missing
- 5 OES Engines and 1 Support Unit
- 10 Local Government Engines
- 2 Cal OES Fire and Rescue Division Assistant Chiefs (5212 and 5215)
- 2 Public Safety Technicians

Transition Center

On 6/28/16, at 1200 hours a Transition Center was opened to support the repopulation effort.

- The location of the Center is Woodrow Wallace Middle School at 3240 Erskine Creek Road, Lake Isabella, CA.
- Normal hours of operation will be from 0900-1800 hours.
- The Center is to provide sensitive information and immediate personal support to the public. The Center is being supported by Red Cross, County Mental Health, Chaplain, County Human Services, Sheriff's and County OES.
- Additional homeowner re-entry information is available at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/4806/31217/> and includes ash and burn debris clean-up and removal recommendations and emergency disinfection of drinking water instructions.

Call Center – (661) 873-2660

- The Call Center is available 0800 to 2000 hours, daily until further notice. The Call Center is staffed by 211 and public health employees, with bilingual capabilities.

Local Assistance Center (LAC)

- Kern County has confirmed the opening of a Local Assistance Center on Friday, 7/1/16 from 0900 to 1800 hours at the Woodrow Wallace Middle School, 3240 Erskine Creek Road, Lake Isabella, CA. The hours of operations are as follows:
 - Monday – Friday 0900 to 1800 hours
 - Saturday and Sunday 0900 to 1600 hours
 - Closed Monday, 4th of July Holiday
- The LAC will open until further notice, and at a minimum, will operate through Sunday, 7/10/16. The county plans to assess survivor participation to determine whether the LAC will be extended beyond 7/10/16.
- The following agencies are being asked to participate:
 - Contractor's State License Board

- California Department of Insurance
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Employment Development Department
- California Department of Public Health – Vital Records
- LAC support – MIGU 5 has been deployed to the location of the LAC. Cal OES staff are on scene setting up the MIGU 5 and working with the County to identify any additional needs. Cell service is limited in the area, and concerns that additional resources may be needed to expand the capability of the existing coverage. Cal OES is actively working with CUEA and the County to ensure LAC needs are supported.

Activations

- SOC is activated at Level 3 from 0700 until 1900 hours.
- Kern County EOC activated at Level 2 from 0700 until 2000 hours.
- A JIC has been established.
- Cal OES Fire and Rescue Emergency Operations Center (Fire EOC)

Proclamations

- Kern County proclaimed a local emergency on 6/23/16
- A State of Emergency was proclaimed on 6/24/16
- An Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) 5131 approved on 6/23/16

State Assistance Requests

- None at this time

Deployments

- 4 ESCs have been deployed to Kern County.
- 2 PSC radio technicians.
- 2 Fire Branch Assistant Chief (AC)
- 2 Cal OES Public Information Officer (PIO)
- 2 Individual Assistance (IA) Liaisons Deployed for Initial Damage Estimates
- Cal OES Acting Deputy Regional Administrator to Kern Co. EOC
- Cal OES Acting Regional Administrator to Kern Co. EOC
- Cal OES 2 Public Assistance (PA) Disaster Assistance Programs Specialist
- 1 Telecommunications Coordinator

Critical Concerns

Access and Functional Needs (AFN)

- Kern Regional Transit is at the shelters to transport AFN community members; their phone number is (800) 277-7866.
- American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter available at the EOC.
- Cal OES Rep. is working with local AFN Rep. Kern County Public Guardian Jeremy Oliver to assess evacuation assistance, if needed.
- See the **OA Mission Support Requests** for AFN Resource Coordination.

Critical Infrastructure (including Hospital and Medical Facilities)

- Kern Valley Hospital closed, no other structures threatened at this time.

Campgrounds Reopen

- The United States Forest Service campgrounds along California 178 – Auxiliary, Old Isabella, South Fork and Paradise Cove – are open in anticipation of the upcoming holiday. While the facilities are open, the public should not depend on water being available at Old Isabella, South Fork and Paradise Cove. The water at Auxiliary is operational.

Meals at Kern Valley High School

- In coordination with Kern County Fire Department and the Kern High School District, the Sikh Friends of Bakersfield are offering free meals to Erskine fire victims, responders, and volunteers at Kern Valley High School from 1100 to 1700 hours daily.

Evacuations

- There are no evacuations in place. Residents can return to their homes with ID for proof of residency.

Road Closures

- No remaining hard closures.
- Soft closures, open to residents with ID.
 - Entrada and Hwy 178
 - Kelso Creek and Kelso Valley Roads Junction
 - McCray Rd. and Dogwood Ave

Health and Medical

A boil water notice was issued. Boil water notice may be lifted as early as 6/29/16, depending on conditions.

- Water systems under boil water notice include:
- Cal Water Service - Southlake-Squirrel Valley System (BWN Lifted)
- Cal Water Service - Mountain Mesa Water Company (BWN Lifted)
- Cal Water Service – Onyx Water System (BWN Lifted)
- South Fork Elementary School Water System
- South Fork Middle School
- Tradewinds Water Association
- Hillview Acres Mutual Water Company
- Lakeview Ranchos Mutual Water Company
- Long Canyon Water Company Water System

Per Cal EPA, Precautionary Do Not Drink Notice issued for the following water systems:

- Sierra Vista Restaurant Water System
- Lake Isabella KOA Campground
- South Fork Women's Club Water System
- Rainbird Valley Mutual Water Company
- Paradise Cove Lodge Water System
- Cal Water is working to assess and restore pressure to the water lines; Cal Water is also making bottled water available for customer pickup.

Air Quality

- The County Public Health Dept. identified a significant threat to public safety due to synthetic and hazardous materials such as gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides and other household chemicals common to the ashes from burned structures.
- The Department of Public Health also advises residents to exercise caution when sifting through the burned remains of their homes. Public Health provides warning notices, gloves and N-95 masks at shelters for displaced residents and will be available at the Transition Center, to ensure safety as they return home. The Kern EOC will initiate public information operations at the JIC to widely disseminate the warning.
- As of 6/29/16 at 0830 hours air quality monitors continue to show 1-3 hour average particulate matter concentrations in the following ranges:
- Good to Moderate particulate matter concentrations: Lake Isabella, South Lake Weldon, Mojave, Visalia, Bakersfield, Springville, and Kernville.
- Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups: Three Rivers and Lancaster.
- good to moderate air quality with recent values (within the last 6 hours) displaying unhealthy air quality for sensitive groups.

Mental Health

- County Mental Health services are provided at the shelter and the Transition Center.

Schools

- All are closed for summer. No summer school at this time.

Shelters

Primary: Kernville Elementary School

- 13359 Sierra Way, Kernville, CA
- Capacity: 150
- Overnight populations: [74](#)

Secondary: St. Jude Catholic Church

- 86 Nellie Dent Drive, Wofford Heights, CA
- Capacity: 150
- Overnight populations: [9](#)

Staff Shelter:

- [Woodrow Wallace Elementary 3240 Erskine Creek Road, Lake Isabella](#)
- Cal OES is working with CDSS and ARC to monitor both the Kernville and St. Jude shelters for additional generator and/or A/C and cooling support needs. The County EOC is managing the request at this time (portable fans and misters are being acquired through a rental agreement at the County level). County will let Cal OES know if additional support is needed.
- The Chief of the Kern County Fire Department is providing daily briefings in each shelter with the ARC Job Director.
- Updates are being posted on the shelter information boards and being distributed at the registration tables.
- 2 medical personnel present at each shelter, 24 hours a day.

Community Care License Facilities

- [The Kern River Valley Community Integration Adult Day Program and the Lake Isabella Respite Center were impacted and closed due to infrastructure concerns.](#)

Animal Shelters

- Kern County Animal Services is assisting with animal sheltering operations. Domestic animals are being housed next to the shelter at Kernville Elementary.
- River Kern Kennel is sheltering large animals.

Shuttle

- The Kern County Transit Department will be operating a shuttle between the Kernville shelter and the Transition Center tomorrow on a set schedule. The first run of the day and once in the afternoon they will stop in St. Jude Catholic Church Shelter to see if there is any interest.

OA Mission Support Requests/Cal OES Mission Tasking

- 2016-SOC-24608: Additional non-profit and state resources being provided by EMSA, CDSS, DGS, CDPH, FEMA Region IX and ARC. (Ongoing, FEMA Demobilized)
- 2016-SOC-24615: 2 AFN showers for Kernville Elementary School Shelter (Onsite)
- 2016-SOC-24616: 2 AFN showers for St. Jude Catholic Church Shelter (1 Onsite, Delivered but reassigned to the Kernville Elementary School Shelter due to need)
- 2016-SOC-24626: 1 AFN port-o-potty for Kernville Elementary School Shelter (Onsite) also 1 cooling system and generator (Coordinating)
- 2016-SOC-24630: 1 AFN port-o-potty for St. Jude Catholic Church Shelter (Onsite);
- 2016-SOC-24652: 10 walkers, 2 manual wheelchairs, 2 bariatric wheelchairs requested (Complete)
- 2016-LAW-24613: 8 Search and Rescue K-9 teams dispatched to search for casualties. K-9 Search and Rescue Teams (Completed mission and demobilized 6/28/16).
- 2016-SOC-24630: Mobile Communications Unit to Transition Center, (Operational)
- 2016-SOC-24742: Hazardous Waste Task Force (Coordinating)
- 2016-FIRE-24709: Aerial Assignment (Coordinating)

Utilities

- Inclement weather remains an issue, at this time CUEA reports that repair efforts will be adjusted to repair power infrastructure lost during the Erskine Fire. Additionally, outages are expected throughout the day. At this time 1,300 (1,700 restored) customers remain without power.
- Most of the power disrupted by the Erskine Fire is expected to be restored by the end of the week; however some customers may remain without power into the weekend.

Recovery

Initial Damage Estimates and Preliminary Damage Information:

- Kern County Building, Environmental Health and Sheriff's Office representatives conducted an assessment in Squirrel Valley and South Lake. Public Health teams assessed properties affected by the fire for debris management and initial hazards; and are in the process of reviewing water systems in the area. Building Inspection teams assess safety of the structures and placed a colored tag on each structure: Red means do not enter or occupy structure; Yellow means restricted access, and specific instructions are written on

the tag; and Green means lawful occupancy permitted and that no apparent structural hazard has been found.

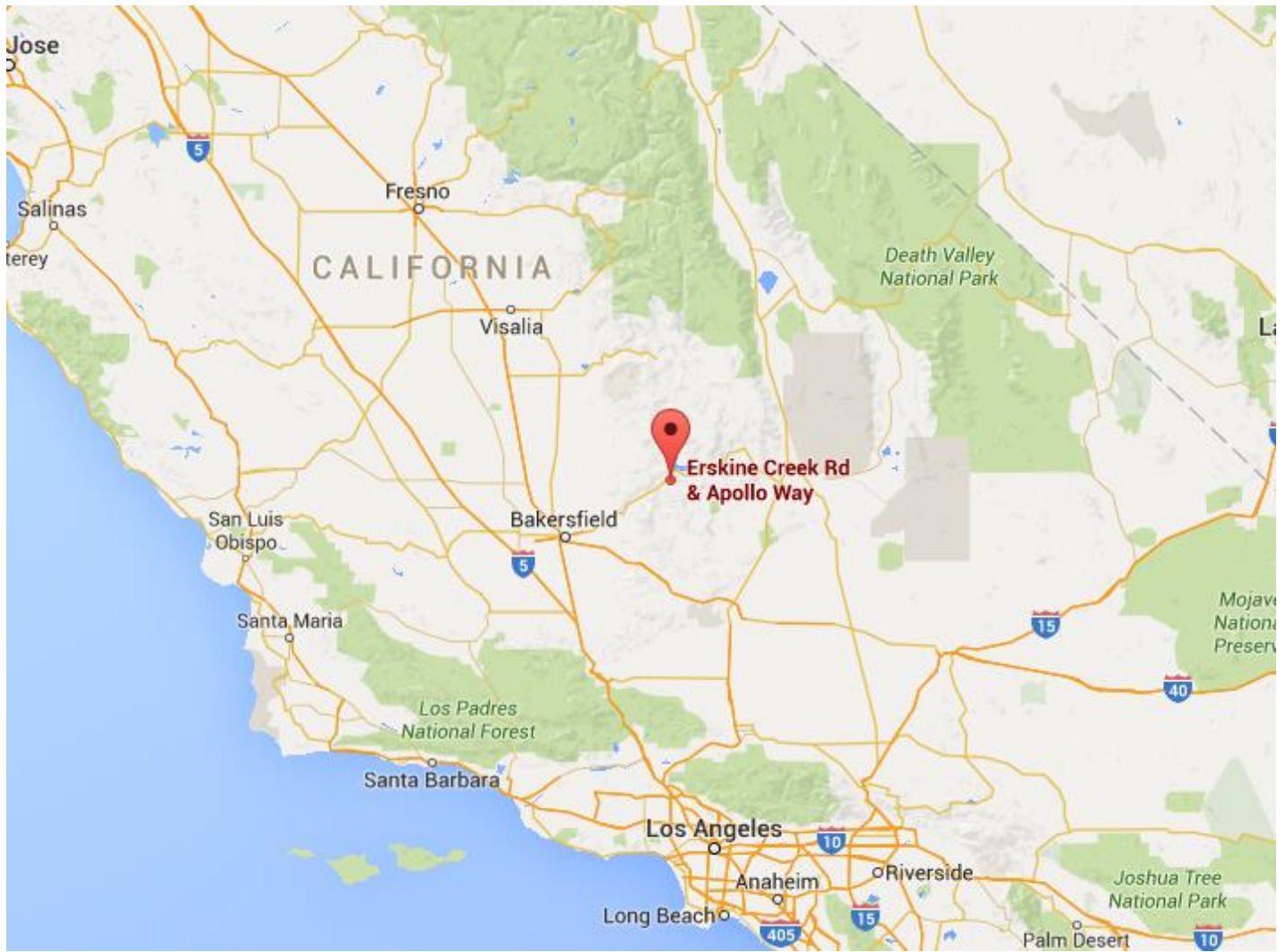
- Cal OES Public Assistance has deployed two Disaster Assistance Programs Specialists to the Kern County EOC to coordinate hazardous materials debris operations.

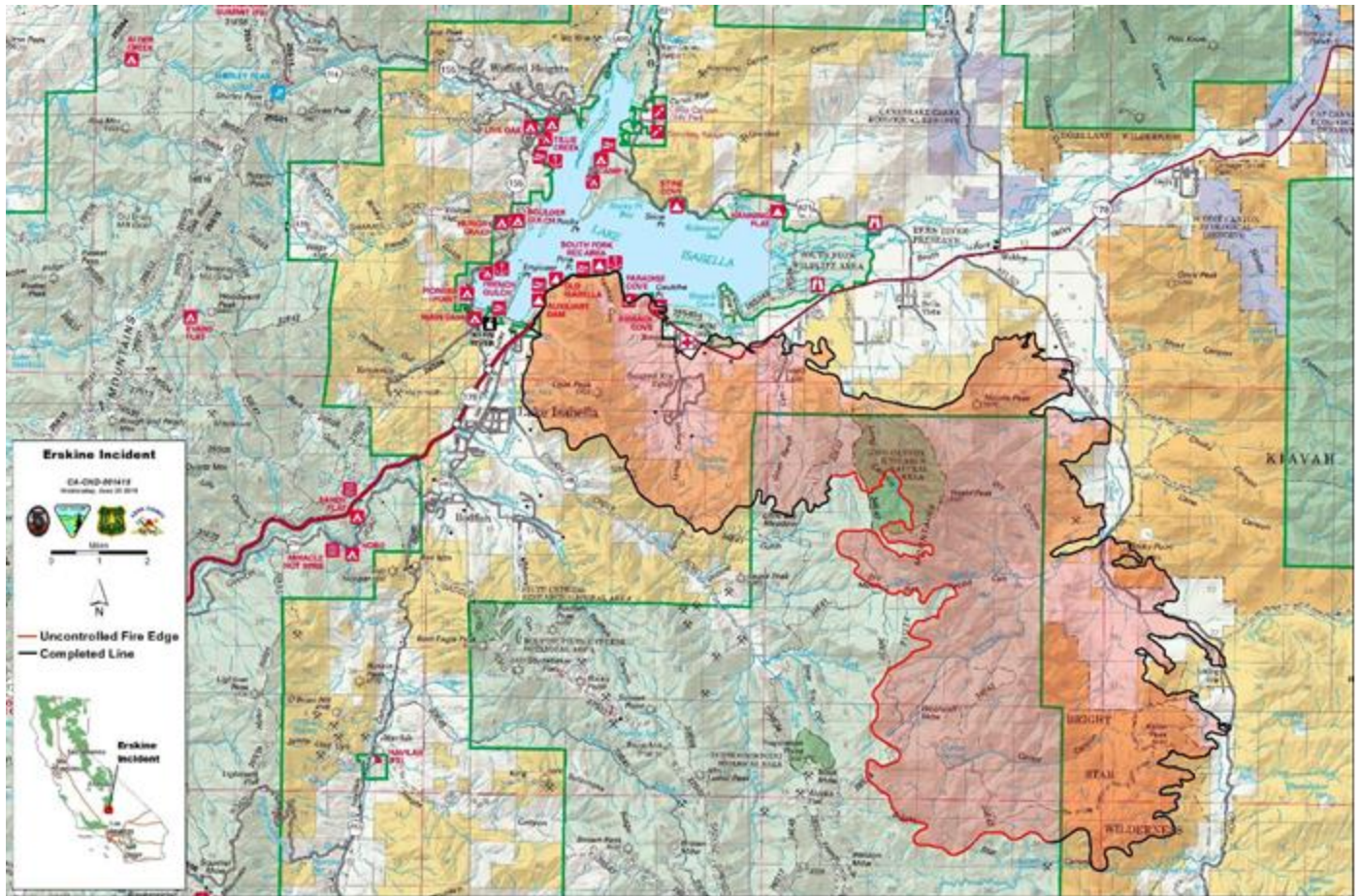
Debris and Hazardous Waste Management

- Cal Recycle standing by for situational awareness and possible tasking for debris removal and are in contact with local authorities concerning landfill capacity.
- Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) will be at the EOC on 6/29/16 to begin coordination of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).
- Four temporary collection sites have been set up to assist residents from the affected areas with disposal of food waste resulting from the prolonged power outage. Items accepted at these temporary collection sites include ONLY food waste and other household trash that is placed in bags. Further efforts to address other fire debris will be set up as part of the recovery process.
- The Kern County Public Works Department has scheduled a special One Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on 7/23/16 to target and collect the household hazardous waste from affected properties. For more information or updates visit the website at www.kerncountywaste.com.

POINT OF CONTACT: California State Warning Center
916-845-8911

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Fire Map from InciWeb 06/29/16